

Notice of Allowability	Application No.	Applicant(s)
	10/601,680	WILLIAMS, RANDOLPH C.
	Examiner TISHA D. LEWIS	Art Unit 3681

-- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address--

All claims being allowable, PROSECUTION ON THE MERITS IS (OR REMAINS) CLOSED in this application. If not included herewith (or previously mailed), a Notice of Allowance (PTOL-85) or other appropriate communication will be mailed in due course. **THIS NOTICE OF ALLOWABILITY IS NOT A GRANT OF PATENT RIGHTS.** This application is subject to withdrawal from issue at the initiative of the Office or upon petition by the applicant. See 37 CFR 1.313 and MPEP 1308.

1. This communication is responsive to the amendment filed on August 17, 2004.
2. The allowed claim(s) is/are 1,3-6 and 8-34.
3. The drawings filed on 23 June 2003 are accepted by the Examiner.
4. Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).
 - a) All
 - b) Some*
 - c) None
 of the:
 1. Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.
 2. Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. _____.
 3. Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this national stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).

*Certified copies not received: _____.

Applicant has THREE MONTHS FROM THE "MAILING DATE" of this communication to file a reply complying with the requirements noted below. Failure to timely comply will result in ABANDONMENT of this application.
THIS THREE-MONTH PERIOD IS NOT EXTENDABLE.

5. A SUBSTITUTE OATH OR DECLARATION must be submitted. Note the attached EXAMINER'S AMENDMENT or NOTICE OF INFORMAL PATENT APPLICATION (PTO-152) which gives reason(s) why the oath or declaration is deficient.
6. CORRECTED DRAWINGS (as "replacement sheets") must be submitted.
 - (a) including changes required by the Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948) attached
 - 1) hereto or 2) to Paper No./Mail Date _____.
 - (b) including changes required by the attached Examiner's Amendment / Comment or in the Office action of Paper No./Mail Date _____.

Identifying indicia such as the application number (see 37 CFR 1.84(c)) should be written on the drawings in the front (not the back) of each sheet. Replacement sheet(s) should be labeled as such in the header according to 37 CFR 1.121(d).
7. DEPOSIT OF and/or INFORMATION about the deposit of BIOLOGICAL MATERIAL must be submitted. Note the attached Examiner's comment regarding REQUIREMENT FOR THE DEPOSIT OF BIOLOGICAL MATERIAL.

Attachment(s)

1. Notice of References Cited (PTO-892)
2. Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948)
3. Information Disclosure Statements (PTO-1449 or PTO/SB/08),
Paper No./Mail Date _____
4. Examiner's Comment Regarding Requirement for Deposit
of Biological Material
5. Notice of Informal Patent Application (PTO-152)
6. Interview Summary (PTO-413),
Paper No./Mail Date _____.
7. Examiner's Amendment/Comment
8. Examiner's Statement of Reasons for Allowance
9. Other _____.

DETAILED ACTION

The following is a response to the amendment received on August 17, 2004 which has been entered.

Response to Amendment

Claims 1, 3-6 and 8-34 are pending in the application. Claims 2 and 7 have been cancelled.

-The specification objection has been withdrawn due to applicant amending the specification according to the office action mailed on May 25, 2004.

-The 103(a) rejection of claims 1, 4-6 and 9 has been withdrawn due to applicant amending claim 1 with the indicated allowable subject matter of claim 2 and amending claim 6 with the indicated allowable subject matter of claim 7. Claims 1 and 6 are currently patentable over the prior art used in the rejection.

-The double patent rejection of claims 1-34 has been withdrawn due to applicant filing a terminal disclaimer which has been approved.

Allowable Subject Matter

Claims 1, 3-6 and 8-34 are allowed. The following is an examiner's statement of reasons for allowance: The prior art of record does not disclose or render obvious a motivation to provide for:

-(As to claim 1) a transfer case having a range clutch operable in a high range position to couple a first clutch plate fixed to a carrier of a planetary gear assembly to a sun gear and permit rotation of a ring gear and operable in a low range position to engage a second clutch plate fixed to a stationary member for braking the ring gear and

releasing the sun gear in combination with all the remaining components/structure and limitations of claim 1.

-(As to claim 6) a transfer case having a range clutch with a range sleeve coupled to a reaction member and moveable to a high range position to couple the reaction member to a first clutch ring coupled to an input shaft and moveable to a low range position to couple the reaction member to a stationary member which is also coupled to a second clutch ring in combination with all the remaining components/structure and limitations of claim 1.

-(As to claim 10) a transfer case having a disconnect clutch operable in a 2WD and 4WD mode to release and couple engagement between a second output shaft and a transfer assembly in combination with a bi-directional overrunning clutch and a shift mechanism controlling the operation of both the disconnect and overrunning clutch in combination with all the remaining components/structure and limitations of claim 10.

-(As to claim 23) a transfer case having a disconnect clutch operable in a first and second mode to couple and release engagement between a second output shaft and a transfer assembly in combination with a range clutch, a bi-directional overrunning clutch and a shift mechanism controlling the operation of all three clutches in combination with all the remaining components/structure and limitations of claim 23.

Any comments considered necessary by applicant must be submitted no later than the payment of the issue fee and, to avoid processing delays, should preferably accompany the issue fee. Such submissions should be clearly labeled "Comments on Statement of Reasons for Allowance."

Conclusion

Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to TISHA D. LEWIS whose telephone number is 703-305-0921. The examiner can normally be reached on M-Thur 8 AM TO 3 PM.

If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, CHARLES A. MARMOR can be reached on 703-308-0830. The fax phone number for the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned is 703-872-9306.

Information regarding the status of an application may be obtained from the Patent Application Information Retrieval (PAIR) system. Status information for published applications may be obtained from either Private PAIR or Public PAIR. Status information for unpublished applications is available through Private PAIR only. For more information about the PAIR system, see <http://pair-direct.uspto.gov>. Should you have questions on access to the Private PAIR system, contact the Electronic Business Center (EBC) at 866-217-9197 (toll-free).

Tdl
November 14, 2004

T. Lewis
TISHA LEWIS
PRIMARY EXAMINER
Art 3681 11/14/04